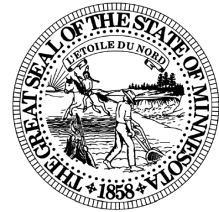


**STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce
Issued: November 2, 2007**



NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

REGARDING:

I.

**CERTIFICATE OF NEED APPLICATIONS FOR THE LSr, ALBERTA CLIPPER AND
SOUTHERN LIGHTS DILUENT PROJECTS**

(PUC DOCKET NOs PL9/CN-07-464 and PL9-CN-07-465)

II.

**APPLICATIONS FOR PIPELINE ROUTING PERMITS FOR THE LSr,
ALBERTA CLIPPER AND SOUTHERN LIGHTS DILUENT PROJECTS**

(PUC DOCKET NOs PL9/PPL-07-360 and PL95/PPL-07-361)

This notice concerns applications to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) by Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership and Enbridge Pipelines (Southern Lights) L.L.C, (Enbridge) for Certificates of Need (CON) and Pipeline Routing Permits (PRP) that will allow Enbridge to expand its existing crude oil pipeline system in Minnesota. This notice provides the dates, times and locations for scheduled public hearings and also provides a description of the issues to be considered at the public hearings and the procedural requirements for public hearings on large energy facilities. If you have an interest in these projects, please read this notice. Any questions may be directed to the appropriate contact person identified below.

This notice can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-201-2202 (Voice) or 800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED

Certificate of Need (CON). The CON proceeding examines the size, type and timing of the projects to determine whether the proposed pipelines are needed and in the public interest. The PUC is authorized by Minn. Stat. 216B.243, subd 2, to issue a CON if Enbridge can demonstrate that there is a need for the project.

Pipeline Routing Permit (PRP). The PRP proceeding determines the location of the pipelines. During this proceeding the impact that the proposed projects will have on humans and the environment and methods to minimize or mitigate those impacts, will be considered. A PRP designates both where the pipeline may be built and specifies conditions for right-of-way preparation, construction and right-of-way restoration. The PUC is authorized by Minn. Stat § 216G.02 to designate routes where the pipeline may be built and issue PRPs.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Honorable Eric L. Lipman, an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will hold public hearings on behalf of the PUC regarding the CON and PRP proceedings for the Enbridge Projects.

The hearings identified below will address need and routing issues for all projects for areas North and West of Clearbrook, Minnesota. Separate hearings will be held in the spring of 2008 for Alberta Clipper and Southern Lights Diluent Project Certificate of Need and Pipeline Routing Permit in the areas South and East of Clearbrook. Public notice of those hearings will be provided in advance of those hearing dates.

Any person who would like to comment on the need or proposed route for the pipeline, or propose a minor location change or alignment modification within Enbridge's REVISED 500 foot wide route will have the opportunity to present evidence, recommendations and comments to Judge Lipman at any of the scheduled hearings identified below.

COMBINED CON AND ROUTE HEARING SCHEDULE

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Kittson	Kennedy	VFW & Café 103 5 th St. E.	Tuesday, Nov. 27, 10:00 a.m.
Marshall	Argyle	Argyle Community Center 701 Pacific Avenue	Tuesday, Nov. 27, 5:00 p.m.
Red Lake	Oklee	Oklee Community Hall 2 nd Ave. between fire hall and gas station (no physical address listed on building)	Wednesday, Nov. 28, 10:00 a.m.
Pennington	Thief River Falls	Best Western Meeting Room 1060 Highway 32 South	Wednesday, Nov. 28, 5:00 p.m.
Polk	Gully	Gully Community Center 120 S. Main St.	Thursday, Nov. 29, 9:00 a.m.
Clearwater	Clearbrook	City Hall Band Room 200 Elm St. SE	Thursday Nov. 29, 5:00 p.m.

***NOTE: Prior to the start of each public hearing the DOC staff will conduct a 5 to 10 minute public information meeting to provide a brief overview of the CON, PRP and the hearing processes, and to describe how the public may participate in each of them.**

The hearing will continue until all persons have had the opportunity to present evidence and question witnesses. If needed, the hearing may be recessed and continued by the ALJ and additional hearing dates may be established by the ALJ in accordance with Minnesota Rules Parts 1405.1400 to 1405.2300.

CONDUCT OF HEARING

At the start of each hearing session, the ALJ will explain the procedural rules for the hearing, including the sequence for providing testimony and questioning witnesses. Members of the public will be allowed to participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required. Participation includes: a) offering direct testimony; b) offering testimony or other material in written form at, or following the hearing; and c) questioning witnesses.

Any person who wishes to question a witness, but does not want to ask the questions, may submit questions in writing to the ALJ, who will then question the witness. Questions may be submitted during the hearing or may be sent to the ALJ in advance of the hearing. A transcript of the proceedings will also be available on request. For more information about participation as a member of the public, contact the PUC's or DOC's public advisor (see information below). Enbridge Energy and the Department of Commerce are the only formal parties to the CON proceedings. Enbridge Energy is the only party to the pipeline routing permit proceedings. Parties are required to prefile their direct written testimony. This direct written testimony will be available for review as described below.

The ALJ will conduct the public hearings in accordance with OAH procedural rules for the PUC's energy facility permitting process (Minnesota Rules Chapters 1400 and 1405). Copies of the rules are available for review at the places identified in the "Information Available for Review" section of this notice and will be available at the public meetings and hearings. Copies may also be obtained from the Department of Commerce as described below.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINES

The public hearing record will remain open following the hearings until 4:30 p.m. on December 14, 2007 so as to allow additional written comments from the public.

OVERVIEW OF ENBRIDGE PIPELINE PROJECTS

Enbridge seeks authorization to build three petroleum pipelines, shown on the accompanying map. The proposed projects are intended to increase crude petroleum transportation capacity between the oil sands in Western Canada and Midwestern refineries, and are a part of Enbridge's system expansion plans in Canada and the U.S.

LSr Project (Docket Nos. PL9/PPL-07-360): The LSr Project is an approximately 136 mile 20-inch outside diameter crude oil pipeline and associated facilities that will run from the Canadian border in North Dakota to an existing tank farm in Clearbrook, Minnesota. The Minnesota portion of this project is approximately 108 miles long, and is proposed to cross portions of

Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Clearwater counties (see map), generally along its existing pipeline right-of-way. The LSr Project will be able to transport approximately 186,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd).

Alberta Clipper/Southern Lights Diluent Projects (Docket Nos. PL9/PPL-07-361): The Alberta Clipper Project is a 990-mile-long, 36-inch outside diameter crude oil pipeline between Hardisty, Alberta, Canada and Superior, Wisconsin, with approximately 285 miles of pipeline and associated facilities to be constructed in Minnesota, generally along Enbridge's existing pipeline right-of-way. The Alberta Clipper Project crosses 13 counties: from west to east, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis and Carlton. This line will transport approximately 450,000 bpd of heavy crude oil from the Canadian oil sands to Midwest refineries. Enbridge plans to construct the Alberta Clipper Project in conjunction with the Southern Lights Diluent Project.

The Southern Lights Diluent Project is approximately 175 miles of new 20-inch outside diameter pipeline from Superior Wisconsin to Enbridge's tank farm in Clearbrook, Minnesota, crossing Clearwater, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis and Carlton counties,. Enbridge proposes to construct the Southern Lights Diluent Project generally along or adjacent to its existing pipeline right-of-way. When completed, this new pipeline will begin in the Chicago area and end at the Enbridge tank farm in Clearbrook, Minnesota. At Clearbrook, Enbridge will reverse the flow on one of its existing 18-inch liquid petroleum pipelines between Clearbrook, Minnesota and the Canadian border near Neche, North Dakota. The Southern Lights Diluent Project will allow Enbridge to transport a byproduct of the refining process from refineries in the Chicago area to the oil sands of Alberta, Canada, where it will be used to dilute the Canadian oil to enable it to flow through a pipeline.

ENBRIDGE'S PROPOSED PIPELINE ROUTE

Chapter 7852 of the Minnesota Rules requires the applicant to identify a preferred route. A route may have a variable width from the minimum required for the pipeline right-of-way (approximately 50-75 feet) up to 1.25 miles. Enbridge initially identified a proposed route of 75 feet generally to the south side of its existing pipelines. On October 10, 2007, Enbridge changed its original proposed route to a REVISED PROPOSED ROUTE of 500 feet in width, centered approximately 25 feet south of Enbridge's existing southernmost pipeline. The width of the revised proposed route represents the area in which Enbridge is requesting to place the pipelines, not the amount of land required to install the pipelines. Enbridge states it intends to use, follow or parallel its existing pipelines and rights-of-way where possible, deviating from its existing right-of-way only where necessary in congested areas and around pumping stations. Enbridge has identified a preliminary location alignment within the 500 foot wide route, which is subject to change throughout the permitting process.

Land and Right-Of-Way Requirements. These pipelines will be placed alongside of existing easements/right-of-way in most areas. When placed in this manner, the pipelines will require up to 75 feet of additional permanent right-of-way space next to Enbridge's existing pipelines. Temporary work space varying in width from 90 to 140 feet will be required in addition to the

permanent easement to store excavated soil and pipe sections, move equipment and vehicles, and provide a safe work area to install the pipelines.

INQUIRIES, PROJECT CONTACTS

Public advisors from the DOC and PUC staff have been appointed to assist and advise persons interested in taking part in the proceedings and will provide on request documents identified in this notice. However, the public advisors are not authorized to give legal advice. If you need an interpreter or need to make special arrangements to participate at the hearing, please contact the Administrative Law Judge at the address provided below. For more information, contact one of the persons listed below:

Administrative Law Judge. Eric L. Lipman, Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55164-0620. eric.lipman@state.mn.us; Fax: 651-361-7936. Tel: 651-361-7842.

Department of Commerce. The Department has designated DOC staff member Larry Hartman (Tel: 651-296-5089 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us) as project manager and Deborah Pile (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) as the public advisor for the pipeline route permit proceedings. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 1-800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

DOC Legal Counsel. Valerie M. Smith for Certificate of Need; Karen Finstad Hammel for Pipeline Routing Permit, Minnesota Attorney General's Office, 1400 Bremer Tower, 445 Minnesota Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-2127; Fax: 651-297-1138; valerie.smith@state.mn.us, Tel: 651-296-6170; karen.hammel@state.mn.us, Tel: 651-297-1852

The Department of Commerce represents the public interest in certificate of need and other proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission. The Department provides two separate and distinct roles with two separate and distinct staffs. The DOC's Energy Planning and Advocacy function and staff serve as the state agency charged with advocating for the public interest in CON proceedings. The Department's Energy Facilities Permitting function and staff serve as the facilitators of the processes required in route permitting proceedings as well as ensuring that the route permitting record is complete for the Commission's decision.

Public Utilities Commission. The Commission has designated Bret Eknes (Tel: 651-201-2236 or bret.eknes@state.mn.us) of the PUC staff as its project manager and public advisor for both Certificate of Need proceedings. Mr. Eknes may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Project Mailing Lists

If you would like to have your name added to the PUC route permit proceeding mailing list for the Enbridge pipeline projects (PUC Docket PL9/PPL-07-360 or PL9/PPL-361), you may register at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19203> or contact the DOC staff at the address above.

The PUC maintains a separate service list for the Certificate of Need proceeding. To be placed on that list (PUC Docket PL9/CN-07-464 or PL9/CN-07-465) mail, fax or email Robin Benson at Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147, Fax: 651-297-7073 or robin.benson@state.mn.us.

Enbridge. Contact Enbridge's toll-free public information number at (866) 410-4356, or contact Enbridge's community relations representative: Kevin O'Connor (Tel: 612-347-7879 or kgoconnor@nrg-11c.com). Natural Resource Group, 80 S. 8th St., Suite 1000, Minneapolis, MN 55402.

Enbridge Legal Counsel. Kevin T. Walli, Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A., The First National Bank Building, 332 Minnesota Street, Suite W-1260, St. Paul, MN 55101; kwalli@fryberger.com, Fax: 651-221-1035, Tel: 651-221-1044

INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

The following will be available for review on November 13, 2007 at public libraries in the cities of Hallock, Warren, Thief River Falls, Red Lake Falls, Fosston, McIntosh, Bagley, Bemidji, Park Rapids, Cass Lake, Walker, Bovey, Coleraine, Grand Rapids, Marble, Aitkin, McGregor, Duluth, Carlton, and Cloquet and at the Department of Commerce office in St. Paul: **1)** Prefiled testimony of the parties including a comparative environmental analysis; **2)** Revised Preferred Route and Alignment maps and route alternative maps; **3)** Certificate of Need Rules for Oil Pipelines (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7853, **4)** Pipeline Routing Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 7852), **5)** the Pipeline Routing Act (Minn. Stat. 216G), **6)** Office of Administrative Hearings Rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 1405) for Hearings on Energy Facilities, and Chapter 1400, parts 5010 to 8400; and **7)** Enbridge's applications (Certificate of Need and Pipeline Routing Permit)

Application Availability. Copies of the application and the REVISED Preferred Route and Alignment Maps are also available for review at each regional development commission, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, auditor of each county, and the clerk of each township and city crossed by the proposed pipeline. Please contact the appropriate office or person to review the applications.

Enbridge Energy Information Website. Please see <http://www.enbridge-expansion.com>. Contact Enbridge at 612-347-7879 to request a CD or print copy of the Certificate of Need and Pipeline Route Permit applications or the revised materials.

PUC Information Websites. Information regarding the Enbridge Projects is available at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>. Type in 07-360 or 07-361 for information on the route proceedings or 07-464 or 07-465 for information on the Certificate of Need proceedings. Information on the route permit proceeding is also available at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19203>.

MINNESOTA LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING PIPELINES

All applicable statutes and rules are on the State of Minnesota website at:
<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/statutes.asp>.

Certificate of Need. Under Minn. Stat. §216B.243, subd. 2, a facility cannot be sited or constructed in Minnesota unless the PUC issues a Certificate of Need to the Applicant. The CON rules pertinent to this filing are Minnesota Rules, Parts 7853.0010 to 7853.0800.

Pipeline Routing Permit. Under Minn. Stat. §216G.02, the proposed pipeline facilities cannot be sited or constructed unless the PUC issues a Pipeline Routing Permit to the Applicant. The pipeline routing permit application is being reviewed pursuant to Minn. Rules, parts 7852.0800 to 47852.1900.

Eminent Domain. Enbridge will have the authority upon issuance of a Certificate of Need and a Pipeline Routing Permit under Minnesota laws (Minn. Stat. 117.48) to use eminent domain to acquire the right-of-way necessary to construct and operate the proposed pipelines and associated facilities.

Agricultural Mitigation Plan. Minnesota Statute Section 216E, Subd. 3. (b) gives the Department of Agriculture the responsibility for development of the agricultural mitigation plan required for this project. The Department of Agriculture may participate and advise the PUC as to whether to grant a permit for the project and the best options for mitigating adverse impacts to agricultural lands if the permit is granted.

Enbridge has consulted with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding state threatened and endangered species and will apply to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a License to Cross Public Waters. Enbridge will be consulting with, and applying to, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding Section 401 water quality certifications.

FEDERAL LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING PIPELINES

Enbridge has filed other required permit applications with the U.S. Department of State for Presidential Permit for Cross-Border Crossing, the United States Army Corps of Engineers for wetland and waterbody crossing permits, the U.S. Forest Service for an amended Special Use Permit. In addition, Enbridge is consulting with the Corps of Engineers and State and Tribal historic Preservation Officers regarding compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service regarding compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Presidential Permit for Cross-Border Crossing. The proposed pipeline project falls under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of State (as designated by Executive Order) and explained on their website under the Energy Policy, Pipeline Permits, Non-Agricultural Commodities portion of the website (<http://state.gov/e/eeb/c9982.htm>).

Section 404 and Section 10 Authorization. The proposed projects are subject to jurisdiction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Additional information on these permit programs is available on the Corps of Engineers website (<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory/>).

